

REMARKS UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The amendments proposed in this Response address the issues on page 2 of the office action. Newly added claims 20-39 are similar in scope to cancelled claims 1-19. No new matter has been added. Entry and allowance are requested.

Claims 20-39 are patentable over Marshall, Miller and Lowe.

Claim 20 describes a scaffold coupling apparatus for tubular scaffold elements comprising a first scaffold, a bolt, first and second half braces attachable around the scaffold and pivotable around the bolt, a fastener for tightening the first and second braces, a second scaffold, a third brace having a closing mechanism comprising fork-shaped free end-piece, the third brace holding the second scaffold and being connected to the first and second braces by the fastener, the fastener comprising bolts having T-shaped heads and bell-shaped projecting parts for limiting a pivotal motion of the T-shaped heads, a shaft with a nut and threads for fitting in the fork-shaped, free end piece of the third brace, the T-shaped heads of the bolts fastening the bell-shaped projecting parts, and contact surfaces for allowing a pivotal motion, for preventing jamming inside the projecting parts and for preventing turning during tightening of the bracing elements. Dependent claims 21-39 add further unique features to claim 20. Nothing in Marshall, Miller or Lowe, describes, teaches or suggests each and every claimed element.

The present invention uniquely provides for a bolt having a

head that fastens the scaffolding such that the head bolt cannot be moved during to loosen its position as is the case with the devices in the references of record. Nothing in the references teach or suggest the claimed contact surfaces or claimed bolt which prevents a twisting motion when there is tightening of the coupling fasteners.

Since Applicant has presented a novel, unique and non-obvious invention, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Kindly cancel claims 1-19 without prejudice.

Kindly add the following claims:

20. Scaffold coupling apparatus for tubular scaffold elements comprising a first scaffold, a bolt, first and second half braces attachable around the scaffold and pivotable around the bolt, a fastener for tightening the first and second braces, a second scaffold, a third brace having a closing mechanism comprising fork-shaped free end-piece, the third brace holding the second scaffold and being connected to the first and second braces by the fastener, the fastener comprising bolts having T-shaped heads and bell-shaped projecting parts for limiting a pivotal motion of the T-shaped heads, a shaft with a nut and threads for fitting in the fork-shaped, free end piece of the third brace, the T-shaped heads of the bolts fastening the bell-shaped projecting parts, and contact surfaces for allowing a pivotal motion, for preventing jamming inside the projecting parts and for preventing turning during tightening of the bracing elements.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the T-shaped heads comprise wedges fitting into the bell-shaped projecting parts and wherein the T-shaped heads further comprise shaped portions having the contact surfaces and wherein the shaft comprises surfaces for preventing a turning motion inside the bell-shaped

projecting parts.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the T-shaped heads further comprise free ends and wherein the shaped portions are inter-fitting portions complementary to the free ends of the T-shaped heads.

23. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the free ends form a flat surface and comprise a bevel towards the shaft.

24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the free ends of the T-shaped heads comprise a vertical bevel, a short bevel on a rear of the T-shaped heads away from the shaft, and a longitudinal bevel pointing towards the shaft.

25. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the shaft comprises contact surfaces along the T-shaped heads.

26. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the contact surfaces on a base of the shaft are vertical and complementary to contact surfaces on the free-ends of the T-shaped heads, and wherein the contact surfaces are disposed vertically towards a longitudinal extension of the T-shaped heads.

27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the contact surfaces comprise bevelled limiting edges widening towards the threads.

28. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the contact surfaces at the free ends of the T-shaped heads and on the base of the shaft have complementary shapes.

29. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the contact surfaces on the base of the shaft extend to the fork-shaped free end piece of the closing mechanism after insertion.

30. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the free end pieces of the T-shaped heads comprise slightly flattened supporting surfaces on a side facing the bell-shaped parts.

31. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the free end pieces of the T-shaped heads and the bell-shaped projecting parts have complementary shapes and comprise corresponding contact and supporting surfaces respectively.

32. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the end pieces of the T-shaped heads comprise a glide enhancing coating along the contact and support surfaces.

33. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the T-shaped heads are of a material softer than a material of the braces.

34. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the ends of the T-shaped heads are of a material softer than a material of the braces.

35. The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising an indentation on a rear of the T-shaped heads corresponding to the first scaffold.

36. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the T-shaped heads comprise a contact surface having a V-shaped expansion proximal the shaft and extending up to a middle of the T-shaped heads.

37. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the bell-shaped projecting parts has portions on a lowest point for fitting on the T-shaped heads and comprises contact surfaces for preventing turning or jamming of the bolts during tightening of the bracing element.

38. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the contact surfaces comprise shaped portions for enclosing ends of the T-shaped heads and arched surfaces in between the ends.

39. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the contact surfaces on the bell are disposed proximal to the lowest point and wherein the portions on the lowest point have thicknesses complementary to thicknesses of the T-shaped heads.